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ASSOCIATION OF
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 17, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 12 totaled an estimated 17.5 billion ton-miles, 2.9 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 15 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 262 billion ton-miles, 8.4 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended April 12 totaled 445,059 cars, 3.9 percent below 1979, but 6.3 percent higher than the preceding holiday week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 9.0 percent in the East, 1.1 percent in the South, and 1.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 18 of the 21 commodity groups declined. Coal loadings were up 11,484 cars, or 10.8 percent, and were the highest since the week ended June 8, 1967. Grain loadings were up 5,074 cars, or 21.8 percent, and nonmetallic minerals showed a gain of 1,186 cars, or 8.7 percent. Fifteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding holiday week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended April 5 totaled 32,962 cars, down 10.3 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 59,238 trailers and/or containers, 8.0 percent lower than last year. The 1980 week included the Good Friday holiday.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 14 weeks of the year was 471,491 cars, 2.7 percent lower than last year, and 854,408 trailers and/or containers, down 0.6 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/12/80.

	Loadings in Week ended April 12, 1980	Change from Corresponding Week 1979		Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars	Cars	Percent	Cars	Percent
Grain	28,371	I 5,074	21.8	I 2,202	8.4
Other farm products	3,429	D 25	0.7	I 328	10.6
Metallic ores	29,980	D 1,233	4.0	I 4,868	19.4
Coal	117,864	I 11,484	10.8	I 13,600	13.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,846	D 2,888	17.3	I 942	7.3
Nonmetallic minerals	14,889	I 1,186	8.7	I 1,392	10.3
Grain mill products	16,030	D 1,175	6.8	I 1,022	6.8
Food and kindred products	17,286	D 966	18.1	I 440	2.6
Primary forest products	18,360	D 1,542	5.3	I 309	1.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,851	D 4,138	7.7	D 614	7.3
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,423	D 1,328	34.5	D 330	1.6
Chemicals and allied products	28,390	D 3,003	6.1	I 852	3.1
Petroleum products	6,259	D 12	9.6	I 557	9.8
Stone, clay and glass products	15,611	D 2,417	0.2	I 518	3.4
Coke	6,971	D 874	13.4	I 978	16.3
Metals and products	18,043	D 2,813	11.1	D 420	2.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	16,274	D 4,628	13.5	I 277	1.7
Waste and scrap materials	13,251	D 551	22.1	I 749	6.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,622	D 2,648	4.0	D 740	6.5
All other carloads	41,119	D 5,260	20.0	D 510	1.2
LCL traffic	190	D 87	11.3	D 7	3.6
Total Cars Loaded	445,059	D 17,844	3.9	I 26,413	6.3
Corresponding week of 1979	462,903				

	1980	1979	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (15 weeks)	6,603,499	6,449,538	I 2.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
14 weeks cumulative	244.7	224.9	I 8.8
Week ended April 12	17.5	17.1	I 2.9
15 weeks cumulative	262.3	242.0	I 8.4

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